

**RE: Docket No. RM-2017-3, Ten Year Rate System
Review Comments.**

Dear Commisioners:

I am writing to you on behalf of Des Moines, Iowa local 44 family and members to submit comments for the Ten Year Rate System Review. The workers APWU local 44 here in Des Moines are on the front line of mail processing and retail services, but also community members and mailers living and working in the Des Moines, Iowa area along with rural Iowa. We understand the financial struggles that the Postal Service faces and its obligation to ensure universal service.

The current CPI rate cap is hurting the financial condition of the Postal Service which in turns reduces the quality of service it provides including the costs from consolidations, closures and service standard degradations that have affected prompt, reliable and efficient services. Our customers and companies suffer with a problem called "floating money". As customers we pay bills to companies. If I put a bill in the mail to a company that expects me to pay the bill on time and my check is in the mail for 9-10 days, it delays the payment to the company. The company hires someone to call me asking "where is my payment" and I tell them it should have been there on time. The company is losing out on my payment for 6-7 days. The company could have had the payment in their account making money on my payment. Some companies charge late fees, which hits the customers and weakens the economy by taking money out of the consumer pocket.

I use the Postal Service and value its existence. The PRC should eliminate the price cap to ensure that the USPS is able to generate the necessary revenue to remain a viable, thriving, public institution that provides prompt affordable service. The USPS must have sufficient financial stability to ensure that it can operate in a manner that provides quality service to everyone, regardless of geographical area. Without a flexible

system that allows the Postal Service to respond to demand, the economy, and costs, the Postal Service will be unable to deliver stable postal services.

Sincerely

Mike Bates

DMI APWU PRESIDENT